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From a letter from Prof. Fitz Edward Hall, of Benares :

"Benares, January 5, 1852.

Since I last wrote to you, a considerable number of oriental works of interest have been published in this country. The first volume of Dr. Sprenger's *Life of Mohammad* has been out for some time. Dr. S. has also just published an edition of the *Gulistân*. The Rev. H. M. Banerjea has published the first volume of his *Purâna-Sangraha*, (text, variants, and English version,) which embraces about a twentieth part of the *Mârkandeya-Purâna*. In Number 35 of the *Bibliotheca Indica* you will find the commencement of Dr. Ballantyne's translation of the *Sâhitya-Darpana*. The same work is continued in Number 36, which has just reached me. From the Benares College we have published a new edition of the *Tarka-Sangraha*, with English and Hindî versions; also *Sanskrit First Lessons*, a Hindî translation of the *Mitra-Lâbha*, and a brochure of the *Mimânsâ-Sûtras*. The first part of the *Yoga-Sûtras* will also be ready in a few days; after which we shall go on with the *Sânkhya-Sûtras*. Dr. Sprenger is publishing, under the patronage of the Court of Directors, a *Catalogue of Arabic, Persian, and Urdû Literature*. A new edition of the *Raghuvansa* is publishing at Calcutta. The *Panchadasi*, with a Bengâlî translation, the *Pârva-Darsana-Sangraha*, and a new edition of the *Siddhânta-Kaumudî* are also soon to go to press. I am told that Sir H. M. Elliot has resolved to enlarge the plan of his *Index*, and to extend the work to ten volumes. The *Prabodha-Chandrodaya* has just been lithographed at Punâ."



II. TRANSLATION OF THE FIRMÂN OF HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY

SULTÂN 'ABD-EL-MEJÎD,

GRANTED IN FAVOR OF HIS PROTESTANT SUBJECTS.

[The following edict of the reigning Sultân is remarkable for its clear-headed, distinct, and manly recognition, and enforcement, of the great principle of religious liberty. The translation, together with lithographed copies of the original, was sent to us by the Rev. H. G. O. Dwight, missionary in Turkey. —E. E. S.]

To my Vizier Mohammed Pasha, Minister of Police at my Capital, the honorable Minister and glorious Counsellor, the Model of the world and Regulator of the affairs of the community, who, directing the public interests with sublime prudence, consolidating the structure of the empire with wisdom, and strengthening the columns

of its prosperity and renown, is the recipient of every grace from the Most High. May God prolong his glory!

When this Sublime and August mandate reaches you, let it be known that :

Whereas, hitherto, those of my Christian subjects who have embraced the Protestant faith have suffered inconvenience and difficulties, in consequence of their not being placed under a separate and special jurisdiction, and in consequence of the Patriarchs and Primates of their old creeds, which they have abandoned, naturally not being able to administer their affairs ;

And whereas, in necessary accordance with my Imperial compassion, which extends to all classes of my subjects, it is contrary to my Imperial pleasure that any one class of them should be exposed to trouble ;

And whereas, by reason of their faith, the above mentioned already form a separate community ;

It is therefore my Royal compassionate will, that, by all means, measures be adopted for facilitating the administration of their affairs, so that they may live in peace, quiet, and security.

Let then a respectable and trustworthy person, acceptable to, and chosen by themselves, from among their own number, be appointed, with the title of "Agent of the Protestants," who shall be attached to the department of the Minister of Police.

It shall be the duty of the Agent to have under his charge the register of the members of the community, which shall be kept at the Police. The Agent shall cause to be registered therein all births and deaths in the community. All applications for passports and marriage-licences, and special transactions of the community that are to be presented to the Sublime Porte, or to any other department, must be given under the official seal of this Agent.

For the execution of my will, this my Royal mandate and August command has been specially issued and granted from my Imperial chancery.

Hence, you the Minister above named, in accordance with the explanations given, will execute, to the letter, the preceding ordinance ; except that, as the collection of the capitation-tax and the delivery of passports are subjected to specific regulations, you will not do any thing contrary to them. You will not permit any thing to be required of them on pretence of fees or expenses, for marriage-licences, or registration.

You will see to it, that, like the other communities of the empire, in all their affairs, and in all matters appertaining to their cemeteries, and places of worship, they shall have every facility and needed assistance. You will not permit that any of the other communities shall in any way interfere with their rites, or with their religious

concerns, and, in short, in no wise with any of their affairs, secular or religious; that thus they may be enabled to exercise the usages of their faith in security.

And it is enjoined upon you not to allow them to be molested an iota, in these particulars, or in any others; and that all attention and perseverance be put in requisition, to maintain them in quiet and security. And, in case of necessity, they are permitted to make representations regarding their affairs, through their Agent, to the Sublime Porte.

When this my Imperial will shall be brought to your knowledge and appreciation, you will have this August edict registered in the proper department, and cause it to be perpetuated in the hands of the above mentioned subjects; and you will see to it that its requirements be always executed in their full import.

Thus be it known to you, and respect my sacred signet.

Written in the holy month of Moharrem, A. H. 1267

(Nov. 1850).

Given in the protected city of Constantinople.



III. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL INTELLIGENCE.

It has been thought that some of our members, who have not the sources of information at command, and perhaps some other readers of this Journal, would be glad to be informed of the more important publications, pertaining to the field of oriental research, which appear, in successive years, in the Old World. To meet the wishes of such, we propose to give, in each Number of this Journal, a list of books and single articles published within about a year, accompanied with brief notes, original, or borrowed, or without any. More extended notices of particular books, or of the progress of research in a particular direction, may be occasionally added.

Adopting a geographical arrangement, as the most convenient for practical purposes, we shall classify the works to be mentioned under the heads of Africa, Western Asia, Eastern Asia, and Oceanica, subdividing, however, into groups indicated by the headings of Philology, History, Geography, Other Sciences, Religion, and Belles-Lettres. But from the strictness of this subdivision by subjects it will be sometimes best to deviate.—E. E. S.

I. AFRICA.

1. *Philology.*

Ueber das Numidische Alphabet. Von O. Blau. (In *Zeitsch. d. D. Morgenl. Gesellsch.*, Heft 1 for 1852.)